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AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of Claims:

1-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) A process as set forth in claim 1 for manufacturing a cellulosic paper product, the process comprising:

forming an aqueous suspension of papermaking fibers; introducing sodium bicarbonate into said aqueous suspension wherein said sodium bicarbonate is introduced into said aqueous suspension in an amount from about 10 to about 15% by weight of papermaking fiber present in said aqueous suspension; depositing said aqueous suspension onto a sheet-forming fabric to form a wet web; and through-drying said wet web by passing heated air through said wet web, wherein the temperature of said heated air is at least about 190°C.

6. (Original) A process as set forth in claim 5 wherein said sodium bicarbonate is introduced into said aqueous suspension in an amount from about 12 to about 13% by weight of papermaking fiber present in said aqueous suspension.

7-14. (Cancelled).

15. (Currently Amended) A process as set forth in claim 12 for making a cellulosic paper product, the process comprising: forming an aqueous suspension of papermaking fibers;

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introducing sodium bicarbonate into said aqueous suspension  
~~wherein said sodium bicarbonate is introduced into said aqueous~~  
~~suspension in an amount from about 10 to about 15% by weight of~~  
~~papermaking fiber present in said aqueous suspension;~~

depositing said aqueous suspension onto a sheet-forming  
fabric to form a wet web, said sodium bicarbonate being  
introduced into said aqueous suspension prior to depositing said  
aqueous suspension onto said sheet-forming fabric; and

through-drying said wet web by passing heated air through  
said wet web, wherein the temperature of said heated air is at  
least about 190°C.

16. (Original) A process as set forth in claim 15 wherein  
said sodium bicarbonate is introduced into said aqueous  
suspension in an amount from about 12 to about 13% by weight of  
papermaking fiber present in said aqueous suspension.

17-25. (Canceled).

26. (Previously Presented) A process for manufacturing a  
cellulosic paper product, the process comprising:  
    forming an aqueous suspension of papermaking fibers;  
    introducing sodium bicarbonate into said aqueous suspension  
    in an amount from about 10 to about 15% by weight of papermaking  
    fiber present in said aqueous suspension;  
    depositing said aqueous suspension onto a sheet-forming  
    fabric to form a wet web; and  
    through-drying said wet web by passing heated air through  
    said wet web.

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27. (Previously Presented) A process as set forth in claim  
26 wherein said aqueous suspension has a pH of from about 7.5 to  
about 8.5 after said sodium bicarbonate is introduced into said  
suspension.

28. (Previously Presented) A process as set forth in claim  
27 wherein said aqueous suspension has a pH of about 8.0 after  
said sodium bicarbonate is introduced into said suspension.

29. (Previously Presented) A process as set forth in claim  
26 wherein said sodium bicarbonate is introduced into said  
aqueous suspension in an amount from about 12 to about 13% by  
weight of papermaking fiber present in said aqueous suspension.

30. (Previously Presented) A process as set forth in claim  
26 wherein the temperature of said heated air is at least about  
190°C.

31. (Previously Presented) A process as set forth in claim  
30 wherein the temperature of said heated air is from about 190°  
to about 210°C.

32. (Previously Presented) A process as set forth in claim  
31 wherein the temperature of said heated air is from about 200°  
to about 205°C.

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33. (Previously Presented) A process as set forth in claim  
26 wherein said papermaking fibers predominantly comprise  
secondary cellulosic fibers.

34. (Previously Presented) A process for making a  
cellulosic paper product, the process comprising:  
    forming an aqueous suspension of papermaking fibers;  
    introducing sodium bicarbonate into said aqueous suspension  
in an amount from about 10 to about 15% by weight of papermaking  
fiber present in said aqueous suspension;  
    depositing said aqueous suspension onto a sheet-forming  
fabric to form a wet web, said sodium bicarbonate being  
introduced into said aqueous suspension prior to depositing said  
aqueous suspension onto said sheet-forming fabric; and  
    through-drying said wet web by passing heated air through  
said wet web.

35. (Previously Presented) A process as set forth in claim  
34 wherein said aqueous suspension has a pH of from about 7.5 to  
about 8.5 after said sodium bicarbonate is introduced into said  
suspension.

36. (Previously Presented) A process as set forth in claim  
35 wherein said aqueous suspension has a pH of about 8.0 after  
said sodium bicarbonate is introduced into said suspension.

37. (Previously Presented) A process as set forth in claim  
34 wherein said sodium bicarbonate is introduced into said

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aqueous suspension in an amount from about 12 to about 13% by weight of papermaking fiber present in said aqueous suspension.

38. (Previously Presented) A process as set forth in claim 34 wherein the temperature of said heated air is at least about 190°C.

39. (Previously Presented) A process as set forth in claim 38 wherein the temperature of said heated air is from about 190° to about 210°C.

40. (Previously Presented) A process as set forth in claim 39 wherein the temperature of said heated air is from about 200° to about 205°C.

41. (Previously Presented) A process as set forth in claim 34 wherein said papermaking fibers predominantly comprise secondary cellulosic fibers.